

FEB 1952 51-4AA

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

CLASSIFICATION

CONFIDENTIAL
SECURITY INFORMATION

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

25X1A

REFERENCE COPY

CD NO.

COUNTRY Colombia

SUBJECT Student Strike in Bogota

DATE DISTR. 11 July 1952

NO. OF PAGES 2

25X1C
DATE OF
INFO. [REDACTED]NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)PLACE
ACQUIRED [REDACTED]SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO. 25X1X

DO NOT CIRCULATE

1. On 6 June 1952 local students, principally those at the National University, began a series of demonstrations and a strike movement, apparently in protest against the decision of the government to extend pre-university schooling for a year. Leaders of the movement are said to be Rodrigo Martinez, from the llanos area; Fanor Quelqueljue Lopez, son of the Panamanian Minister to Colombia; Orlando Rincon Mendes, a Venezuelan; Antonio Ramirez Calderon; Herberth Alban; Jorge Alvaro Paredes; Esteban Bendek Olivella; and Armando Suescum of the Universidad Javeriana. Father Rudecindo Lopez Lleras was also reported to have taken part in organizing the strike.

2. On 8 June 1952 the students were denied permission by the government to hold a proposed meeting in commemoration of the death of Gonzalo Bravo Perez, student leader whose death in front of the presidential palace in 1939 contributed to the downfall of the Conservative regime at that time. The government believed that banning of the meeting would aid in avoiding political repercussions. A crowd of students gathered, however, at a local cemetery for a demonstration, during which they were addressed by Diego Montana Cuellar, Antonio Garcia, and Diego Luis Cordoba. Later the director of police and some university professors were assaulted, and some damage was done to university buildings. Eight students were jailed by the police. The university was subsequently closed by the authorities.

3. On 17 June 1952 officials of the Partido Comunista de Colombia (PCC) issued orders to members of university cells to take full advantage of the turbulent situation. Instructions were sent out directing cell members to turn the student movement into a political issue and, if possible, to precipitate a serious incident during one of the demonstrations. It was suggested that efforts should be made to arouse the police to the point of firing into the mob and causing death or injury to some of the students.

CLASSIFICATION

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

25X1A

-2-

25X1A

4. [REDACTED] Communist students, directed by the leaders of the Union de la Juventud Comunista de Colombia (UJCC) have devoted all of their attention to promoting the strike since shortly after its beginning. They are studying ways for continuing the demonstration even after the students return to classes. To accomplish this it will be necessary for the Communists to reach an agreement with other groups involved, such as the Alzatistas, Liberals, and Socialists.

25X1A

5. On the day of the Communist order to its university cells, 17 June, a mob of approximately 100 students gathered at a street corner, shouting protests against the government and its persecution of the people of Colombia. The crowd was dispersed by several hundred police who used tear-gas bombs.

6. [REDACTED] the tenor of student remarks during this and the following two days had become purely political, with no reference to the matter of the original protest.

25X1A

CONFIDENTIAL